

REMARKS

Claims 2-15, 17-19, 21, 22, and 30-35 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 16 and 20 have been cancelled herein. Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 17, 21, 22, 30 and 31 have been amended. New claims 32-35 have been added. Support for the foregoing amendments to the claims and new claims contained herein are may be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner determination that claims 8-10, 15 and 18-20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

TELEPHONE INTERVIEW WITH EXAMINER

Applicant's representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in a telephone interview of this case. Proposed claims were discussed and agreement was reached on the allowability of the proposed claims.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Minor amendments have been made to the specification to correct minor errors in the units of measure for hermeticity included in the tables at paragraphs 27 and 43. No new matter has been added.

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached "Replacement Sheet No. 6/6" of drawings includes a proposed change to Figure 9. The attached "Replacement Sheet 6/6" replaces the drawing sheet no. 6/6 that was filed in this application with a Preliminary Amendment dated September 24, 2003.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet No. 6/6

Annotated Sheet No. 6/6 Showing Proposed Change

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 9 has been amended as indicated on the attached annotated drawing sheet. No new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and accept the foregoing amendments to the drawings.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7, 11-14, 16-17, 21-22 and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dozier (U.S. Pat. No. 3,770,878) in view of Kobler (U.S. Pat. No. 4,913,673). This rejection is respectfully traversed, particularly in view of the amendments to the claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the foregoing rejections.

Claims 1 and 16 have been cancelled, without prejudice.

Claim 7 has been amended and is believed to be allowable. In particular, claim 7 now recites, *inter alia*, a hermetic terminal assembly comprising a dielectric retainer where the retainer is "located adjacent to the interior surface of the bottom portion of the body." Dozier, either alone or in combination with Kobler, does not teach or suggest such a device. Dozier discloses a hermetic terminal assembly including sleeve inserts 17 disposed within the sleeves 5 of the body 1. The inserts, however, are not adjacent to the interior surface of the cup-shaped body, as claimed.

Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7, and claims 8-15 which depend directly or indirectly from claim 7, are patentable and in condition for allowance.

New independent claims 32 and 34 have been added and are believed to be allowable over the art. Claims 2-6, 30, 31 and 33 ultimately depend from new claim 32

and claims 17-19, 21, 22 and 35 ultimately depend from new claim 34. These claims, too, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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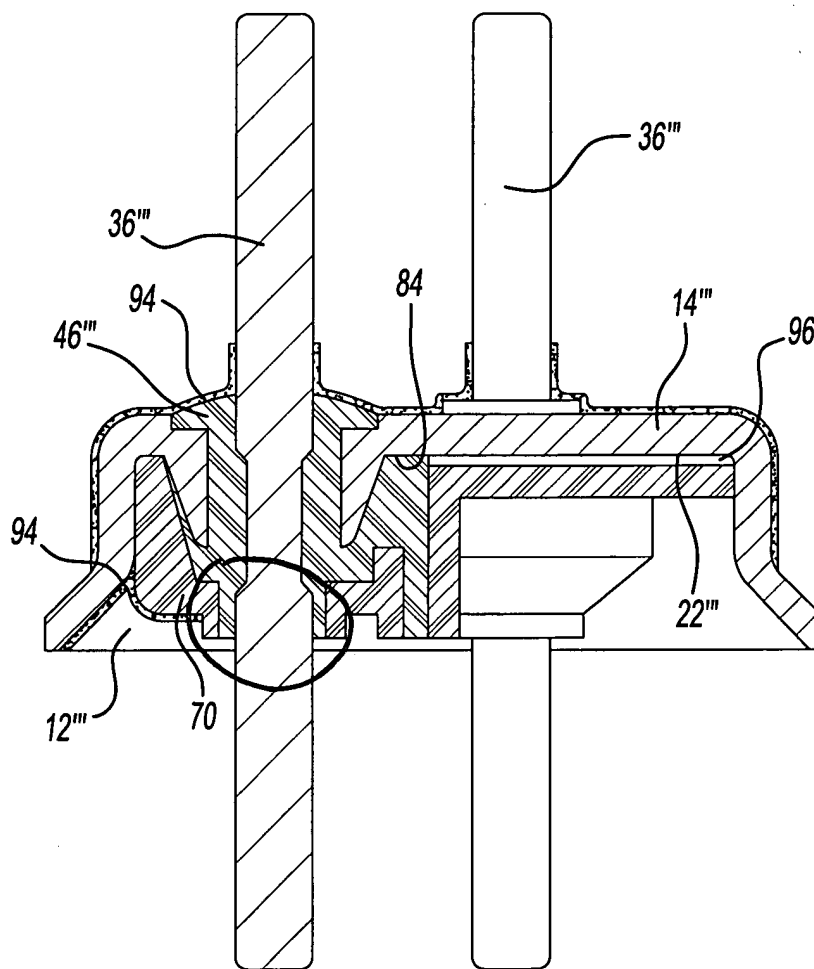


Fig-9